



HOMAN & BADGER, Publishers.

Vol. XLIV.

Maine Farmer.

S. L. BOARDMAN, Agricultural Editor.

Dairyman's Board of Trade.

The first meeting for the organization will be held at the PENOBSCOT EXCHANGE, BANGOR, on Wednesday, June 21st, 1876, at eleven o'clock A. M. A full attendance is desired, and the services of a lawyer is earnestly desired. By order of Committee of Maine's Dairyman's Association.

DANIEL SPOONER, Chairman.

Farm Enclosures.

Now that the seed is in the ground, the next thing for farmers to do is to look after the fences. Even before this, many farmers have spent several days, perhaps, in "tackling up" brush fence around pastures so that cattle may be kept within bounds; and if they break out during hoeing time, pressing work must be left and a day spent or spent in repairing the same. Should not the matter of fences and enclosures receive a little systematic consideration just at this time?

Our readers will doubtless remember the discussion which the fence question received at the meeting of the Board of Agriculture at Brunswick last winter, and the statistics as to the cost of the fences in the State of Maine then presented. Those statistics, which any one can verify by his own figuring, are certainly worthy of thought, and now is just the time to think about them. A fair estimate of the number of rods of fences maintained in the State, would be as follows: Highway fences, 10,161 rods; line or division fences, 15,288,000; partition fences, including lanes and orchards, 15,195,000. Now estimating that this fence costs one dollar per rod, we have \$40,444,500 as the total cost of the fencing of the State. The expenses of maintaining these fences are also considerable, and would embrace the following items; viz.—Interest on the cost at 6 per cent, \$2,438,688; repairs or deterioration, at 6 per cent, \$2,438,688; taxes 2 per cent, \$12,890. About one tenth of the municipal taxes is fairly chargeable to the cost of repairing highways in winter, and you have the sum of \$6,050,272. A division of this total cost upon the seventy thousand farms of the State, would make the average cost of each \$677, and the annual cost for repairs, &c., \$100. Farmers generally are of the opinion that a considerable portion of the interior fences may be dispensed with; some say about ten per cent. of the whole amount. Now add this to that portion of road fence which may be removed say seven-eights, (as a basis for calculations.) and we have 10,410,610 rods of fence on the highway and interior enclosures which can be gone along without—say the speak of the amount of and numbered by these fences, equal to more than thirty-five thousand acres, the value of which for useful purposes in agriculture would be worth at least \$1,000,000. It is true, land is so cheap and abundant in this State, we are not apt to consider that occupied by fences and roadside as of much account—but supposing our farmers simply disburse ten per cent. of their highway and interior fences, at one act saves 10,410,610 rods in the cost and expenses of keeping in repair. This surely is worth thinking about.

Assuming that a reform in this one thing is really demanded, shall it not be imagined here and now, just as planting is finished and fences are coming upon the dock? If so, how? Look over your farm, having in mind what you intend to do with that and that endures. In the future, and see some fence that now is rebuilding can not be taken down, or some new fence which you intended to build cannot be discontinued. If necessary, to show the plan to your neighbor, tell him your plan and ask his co-operation. If he is sensible as he is presumed to be, he will unite in your arrangements. This much started, the thing will work itself out to a satisfactory end, and all fences except those enclosing permanent pastures may be gradually abandoned.

On the State College farm at Orono, the fence by the highway and between fields were taken down. The plan worked well, farmers in the neighborhood imitated it, and soon a goodly number fell into the same way. It has given great satisfaction and the reform is spreading all through the town. The same has been in Amherst, Mass., where the managers of State College adopted the same method; and in other places wherever tried, fences have never been restored that have been once abandoned. In how many towns and neighborhoods will this reform, which we believe to be a correct one, be inaugurated this Central summer?

Artificial Manures.

The enormous proportions to which the manufacture of commercial manures has extended, both in England and this country, will be quite startling to any one who for a moment contemplates the rise and progress of the business. In the United Kingdom, it is believed, from the most recent calculations, that 550,000 tons of animal manures are manufactured annually; and although a statement of the business in the United States would be but an approximation to correctness, yet we believe, taking the capital and business of one large establishment about which something is definitely known as a basis, the estimate below is not far from correct—being under, rather than over the true estimate. In a report dated Jan. 1876, the Department of Agriculture of the State of Georgia published analyses of fifty-eight brands of commercial fertilizers manufactured by thirty-nine different companies. Estimating the capital stock of each company at \$50,000 which is certainly a low figure, we have \$1,950,000 as capital; estimating the cost of buildings and machinery at \$100,000 each, gives \$3,900,000, a total of \$5,800,000 invested—and estimating the annual sale of each company at \$300,000 (a single company in New England made in 1874, fertilizer valued at \$450,000) we have an aggregate annual production of \$17,400,000 worth of artificial manures, which, considering the large sales in crude manorial chemicals is no doubt a very low estimate. And this business has all been founded upon the somewhat insane idea of farmers generally, that commercial fertilizers are just what their run out farms need to bring back lost fertility. But when they stop this great use of patent manures which at best is experimental and unsatisfactory, and depend

more largely upon the home resources of fertilization, how too much neglected, the above great money drain will be somewhat curtailed, and a better basis of permanently manuring the farm will have been adopted. Farm-yard dung, compost, ashes, muck, the pig-stye, the hen house, care and labor—will furnish any farm with an abundance of the best manure, and he who neglects it is guilty of gross wastefulness and improvidence.

Maine Jersey Herd Book.

The first volume of the Herd Book of the Maine State Pure Blood Jersey Cattle Association, to the publication of which all its members have looked forward with interest, has just been issued, and forms a creditable looking pamphlet of 80 pages. The Association which has issued it, existed for many years as a local or town society, and kept its register of animals and service in MS.; but in 1875, the membership of the society having extended largely into towns the State, other than Winthrop, its members petitioned the Legislature for an act of incorporation, and obtained the necessary charter. It took active measures to secure the publication of its herd register, which has now appeared from the press.

The register is introduced by a few somewhat desultory remarks on the care of dairy cows, management of calves, pedigree, &c., from the pen of the Secretary, Mr. N. R. Pike of Winthrop. The register contains the names of 166 bulls, and 346 cows and heifers. An index of names of animals is given, and the value of the work would have been greatly enhanced if an index of breeders' names had also been published. Bulls are recorded from twenty-six towns in Maine, from eighteen in Massachusetts, from three in New Hampshire, and from one each in Nebraska, Connecticut, and New York. Of the cows recorded, two hundred and seventy-eight are from Maine, eighteen from Massachusetts, seven from Nebraska, two from Canada, and one from New Hampshire. The largest number of cows recorded from any town in Maine is from Winthrop, which has 189 registered in the volume. The largest breeders represented are, N. R. Pike, A. Wheeler, G. A. Pike, F. H. Metcalf, W. M. Woodward, J. L. Metcalf and Charles Kezer, Winthrop; Samuel Guild, Augusta; L. H. Snell, East Winthrop, and E. K. Whitney, Harrison. In some instances, especially in the list of cows, it would have been well had additional evidence to the breeding of some animals been obtained, or the names entirely omitted; but perhaps the compilers wished to make as good a showing of names as possible and were consequently betrayed into the plan of publishing a long list. However, as far as this question is concerned, the evidence is unquestionably as good as in many found recorded in the second and third volumes of the Am. J. C. Club's first volume, and absolutely none in the columns of sire and dam—an omission very noticeable in the last mentioned volume. As a record of "foundation stock" for Maine Jerseys, the book is certainly highly satisfactory, and its present timely publication will enhance the value and character of this breed everywhere. Its value however, would have been greater had it embraced a brief historical statement of the early introduction of Jerseys into Maine, facts which could have been got at by a little patient investigation (to which we may possibly refer hereafter); and it is also a matter of surprise that the name of no responsible editor, nor of the officers of the Association, can be found anywhere upon the publications. Surely this is an omission for which some one ought to be responsible, and we suggest the printing of an extra page giving the organization and committees of the Association, to be inserted immediately after the title-page, before the work is distributed or circulated.

The work was conducted by Messrs. Sprague, Owen & Nash of that city.

Mr. Goodman on Maine Jerseys.

As we stated in No. 18 of our present volume, we have always known Mr. Richard Goodman of Lenox, Mass., as one of the ablest and one of the most candid writers on the American agricultural press. And his letter to the *Massachusetts Ploughman* of a late date on "The Cheese Jersey of Maine" but confirms us in our former well settled belief. This letter based upon articles in our own journal, is written in such excellent spirit and with so much intelligence and fairness, that we much regret our inability to transfer it to our columns entire. But the lesson in which, perhaps, the reader may feel the most interest, is what experience has taught in relation to the practical bovine cheese. The author of the article on success or defeat. Hence I propose that giving the *Winthrop Jersey* "undoubtedly the farmers' most important crop in this State" is the best way to go. I do not doubt he describes the situation correctly.

In the summer of 1846 I moved on the place on which I have since, and now reside. The farm (at least enough to be so called,) consists of 100 acres, and is well suited to two or one-half pasture, sufficient to cover the cow, the rest mowing, orcharding, garded and space for buildings.

Ground well mulched has no reward, but the man who has a small farm to tend to, will have good with which to yield him a good crop, and to go to market with a good price.

It is a good idea to have a small farm to tend to, and to have its yield be a complete forest of grass, producing large crops, not only for three or four years, but as my experience testifies, considerably longer.

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